



## 2018 Service Academy Nominations Application Packet

U.S. Congressman Darren Soto

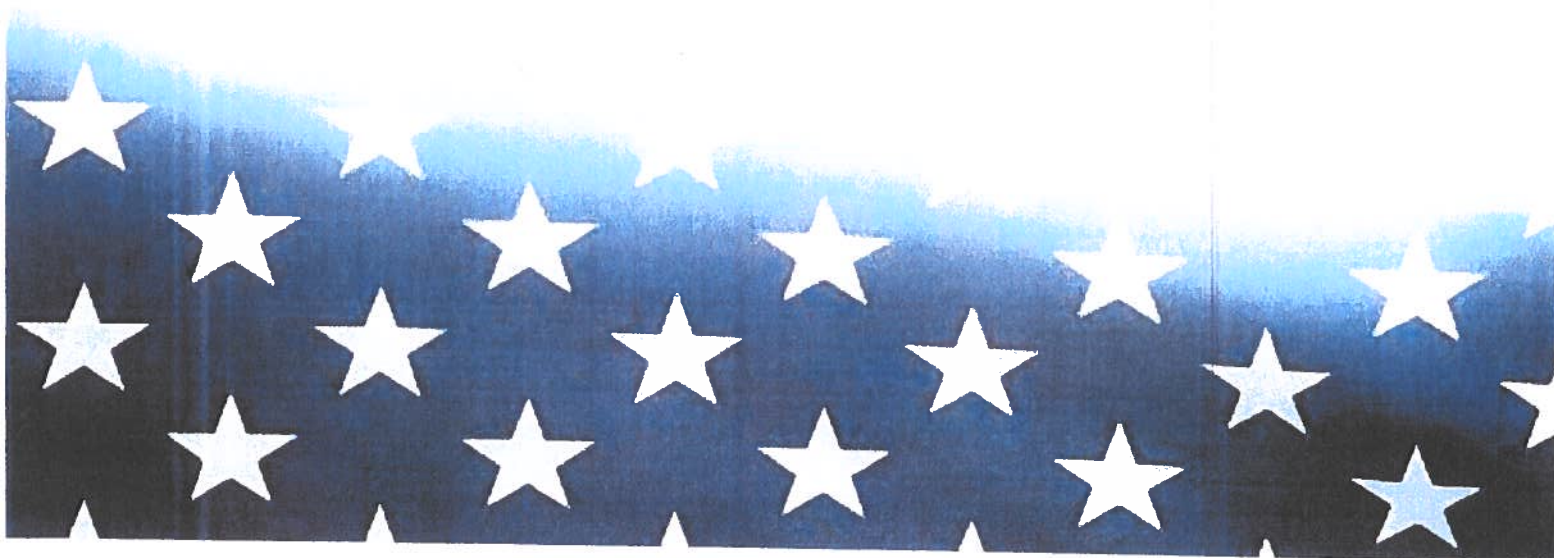
Florida's Ninth District

[www.soto.house.gov](http://www.soto.house.gov)

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**Dedication Leadership Commitment Patriotism Honor**

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WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1429 LONGWORTH HOB, WASHINGTON, DC 20215  
(202) 225-9889

KISSIMMEE OFFICE  
804 BRYAN STREET, KISSIMMEE, FL 34741  
(407) 452-1171

LAKE NONA OFFICE  
6900 LAKE NONA BLVD, #101A & 101B, ORLANDO, FL 32827  
(407) 266-7161

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20215

Dear Academy Applicant:

Thank you for answering the call to serve! We are in receipt of your request for a nomination to the United States Service Academies.

Our Nation has a rich history of training our nation's military leaders. From the fields of Gettysburg to the sands of Omaha Beach military academy graduates have led this country through some of its most difficult days. Today, these same values are taught at the service academies.

The Service Academies allow students to serve their nation while receiving a quality, tuition free education at some of the nation's finest education institutions. I take the privilege of nominating individuals to the Service Academies very seriously. I also strive to increase opportunities for our young constituents so they may be the next generation of brave military leaders!

Please use the information enclosed in this packet to submit an application to my office.

Best of luck in your future endeavors,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Darren Soto".

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

## SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS



### TIMELINE OF EVENTS

<b>February 23, 2018</b>	<b>Application period opens</b>
<b>March 31, 2018</b>	<b>Spring Academy Day</b>
<b>September 29, 2018</b>	<b>Fall Academy Day</b>
<b>October 19, 2018</b>	<b>All applications DUE</b>
<b>October 27, 2018</b>	<b>Selection Committee Interviews</b>
<b>November 2018*</b>	<b>Nominees will be contacted</b>

**\*These dates will be updated as they become available. Please contact our office if you have any questions.**

## SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS



### HOW NOMINATIONS ARE COMPLETED

Choosing the most qualified candidates to nominate to a United States Service Academy is an honor and no easy task. Nominations are based on a “whole person” evaluation. This includes factors such as academic achievements, standardized test scores, extra-curricular activities, leadership skills, character, motivation and letters of recommendation.

In order to ensure the utmost level of fairness and quality in this fiercely competitive nomination process, Congressman Soto has put together qualified and experienced military individuals to serve as a Service Academy Nomination Board. This board will review all applications, interview all prospective nominees and make their recommendations of the most qualified candidates to Congressman Soto.

Congressman Soto believes this is the fairest, most efficient and practical way to select the most skilled and qualified candidates to nominate to the U.S. Service Academies.

## SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS



### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Each applicant for a nomination must meet the following eligibility requirements as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of admission to an academy:

1. Be a citizen of the United States.
2. Be at least 17 years old, but not have passed the 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.
3. Must reside within the boundaries of the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Florida.
4. Be unmarried, not pregnant and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents.
5. Must meet the medical, physical and academic requirements of the Academy.
6. Display strong moral character, leadership skills and unbending integrity.

## SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS



### APPLICATION PACKET INSTRUCTIONS

Your application is your first means of communication to the Service Academy Review Board. It will provide them with the necessary information to process your application for a Congressional Nomination.

Follow all instruction carefully:

1. Assemble your packet in the order of the Required Materials Checklist.
2. Do not send a full sized photograph.
3. Be neat and precise.
4. Do not bend your packet.
5. Utilize the Required Materials Checklist- Congressman Soto's office will not notify you of an incomplete packet.
6. The information packet will be submitted to the Service Academy Review Board "as is".
7. If you feel like you forgot to include a document please email it to [shasta.shaffer@mail.house.gov](mailto:shasta.shaffer@mail.house.gov) and she will add it to your packet.
8. All candidate packets are kept confidential and will only be reviewed by members of the Congressman's staff and the Service Academy Review Board.
9. The due date for ALL MATERIALS is Friday, October 19, 2018. Late submissions of packets or individual pieces of information will only be accepted if they are received or postmarked prior to or on the submission deadline.
10. Do not staple your packet together.
11. Mail or drop off all packets to:

Congressman Darren Soto

Attn: Service Academy Applications

6900 Lake Nona Blvd., Suite 101B

Orlando, FL 32827

\*Please call or text 202-256-1165 or email [shasta.shaffer@mail.house.gov](mailto:shasta.shaffer@mail.house.gov) prior to dropping the packet off.



## SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS



### REQUIRED MATERIALS CHECKLIST

All material must be submitted to the Lake Nona District Office or postmarked by **Friday, October 19, 2018.**

- ☐ **Application for nomination**
  - Complete entire application form
  - Please type or print neatly
  - Make sure to sign and date your application
- ☐ **Materials from your school**
  - Current class schedule
  - Official academic transcripts from high school and college (if applicable)
- ☐ **Standardized test scores (SAT/ACT)**
  - May be included on transcript
- ☐ **Resume**
  - Include extra-curricular activities starting in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and employment history
- ☐ **Essay: "Why I want to attend a military academy..."**
  - Please keep your essay to 500 words or less
- ☐ **Letters of Recommendation**
  - Include at least 3 letters
  - Letters should be from people who the applicant knows personally and should attest to the applicant's character, motivation to serve and integrity. (i.e. teachers, counselors, employers, coaches, clergy, scout leaders...)

\*\*\*\*\*Please remember all materials **MUST** be submitted or postmarked by **Friday, October 19, 2018.**

Submit all materials to:

Congressman Darren Soto

## SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

Attn: Service Academy Applications  
6900 Lake Nona Blvd., Suite 101B  
Orlando, FL 32827



Contact Information:

Shasta Shaffer: [shasta.shaffer@mail.house.gov](mailto:shasta.shaffer@mail.house.gov)

Cell: (202) 256-1165





CONGRESSMAN DARREN SOTO

9<sup>th</sup> District of Florida

2018 U.S. SERVICE ACADEMY NOMINATION APPLICATION

Please attach photo  
here.

It should be a recent  
picture and no larger  
than wallet size.

Full Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

*Last*

*First*

*M.I.*

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth.: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security No.: \_\_\_\_\_

School last attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Enrollment Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

SAT SCORES:

Math: \_\_\_\_\_ Verbal: \_\_\_\_\_

ACT SCORES:

Composite: \_\_\_\_\_ Math: \_\_\_\_\_ Science: \_\_\_\_\_ English: \_\_\_\_\_ Reading: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLIED THROUGH OTHER SOURCES? (Please check all that apply):

\_\_\_\_\_ Senator Bill Nelson \_\_\_\_\_ Senator Marco Rubio \_\_\_\_\_ Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Please rank the academy preference by numbering 1-4 below (ONLY NUMBER THE ACADEMIES WHERE YOU PLAN TO APPLY/HAVE ALREADY APPLIED):

\_\_\_\_\_ US Military Academy \_\_\_\_\_ US Air Force Academy  
\_\_\_\_\_ US Naval Academy \_\_\_\_\_ US Merchant Marine Academy

Name of hometown newspaper \_\_\_\_\_

Is it ok to use your name in a press release after receiving an appointment? Y / N

I hereby declare that I am a United State Citizen and a legal resident of Florida's Ninth Congressional District. In signing this application, I request that Congressman Darren Soto, consider my application for a Congressional nomination to one or more of the United States Service Academies. I understand and accept that the deadline for completed applications and all requested materials is: **Friday, October 19, 2018.**

LATE SUBMISSIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_